



ICLEI is an international association of local governments and local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. ICLEI works with its hundreds of local government members to promote sustainability through performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs.

ICLEI provides technical assistance, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and implement sustainable development programs. Locally designed initiatives provide effective and cost-efficient solutions for achieving sustainability that cumulatively have national and global impact.

ICLEI's flagship program is dedicated to developing local solutions to global warming. Worldwide the Cities for Climate Protection® Campaign includes more than 770 local governments that are integrating climate change mitigation into their municipal programs and decision-making processes. ICLEI runs this highly successful and widely recognized campaign in Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Latin America, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the U.S. In the U.S., ICLEI works with over 190 local governments representing 60 million Americans.

ICLEI offers a suite of technical, policy, and information assistance for climate action to local governments within its network, including:

- Software and other quantification tools
- Policy documents and templates
- Thematic sub-programs (Green Fleets, Urban Heat Island Mitigation, Waste Challenge, Climate and Transportation Project, etc.)
- National and regional training workshops
- Virtual training sessions
- Regional network facilitation
- Site visits
- Representation at international climate events such as the COP and COP/MOP meetings
- National performance-based award program
- Fundraising assistance for local projects
- National events for mayors, such as the *Sundance Summit*

Additionally ICLEI is developing the *Climate Safe Communities Campaign* as the next critical step for local governments taking climate action, and ICLEI plays a vital role in consistently engaging new interest in the issue, influencing other levels of government, and harnessing the power of collective action to draw attention to the impacts and solutions of climate change. In 2005, events like the launch of the *World Mayors Council on Climate Change* in conjunction with the COP11/MOP1, and the inaugural *Sundance Summit: A Mayors' Gathering on Climate Protection*, served to substantially inspire leadership and demonstrate the power and influence of cities on the issue of global warming.



ICLEI USA's Climate Safe Communities Campaign

Overview

In fall 2005 ICLEI launched its **Climate Safe Communities** campaign to help local governments throughout the US improve their resiliency in the face of increasing climate disruptions and catastrophes that stem from global warming.

While change can require a crisis response, resilient communities typically focus on returning to a sustainable state and using change to improve and pursue strategic aspirations. The Climate Safe Communities campaign will help local governments develop their capacity to identify and reduce vulnerabilities, and thus improve their resilience. Program participants will learn to use tools and develop strategies that reduce hazards and manage risks related to regulations, planning, urban design, and investments. The program will also help communities identify and pursue creative opportunities that arise from change.

Program Components

A top program objective is to establish a nationwide Climate Safe Communities network that will share learning and resources, benefit from a communications and outreach program, and gain access to a set of climate adaptation protocols.

ICLEI USA is working closely with King County, Washington and the Climate Impacts Group to create a Climate Adaptation guidebook, due out in Fall 2006. The guidebook will inform the development of ICLEI's adaptation protocols and will be used as a primary education and outreach tool. The resulting adaptation protocols will be pilot tested in three US cities, selected to represent distinct geographic locations with differing climate impacts. The pilot testing will contribute critical feedback to the project, help continually refine the protocols, and serve as platforms for media work and for getting the word out about the campaign.

ICLEI USA was able to launch the Climate Safe Communities campaign thanks to an award being administered by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). ICLEI is working closely with NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) scientists from around the country to develop and implement this new initiative.